

### Will the Pastor be teaching a Bible study in the Sanctuary?

Pastor Kelly will be teaching a Wednesday evening Bible study in the Fellowship Hall (not the Sanctuary). This study is open to anyone who does not desire to participate in a small group or is unable to join a small group that has already started. By remaining in the Fellowship Hall, we hope to engage those who might come for dinner and plan to leave. We would love, and welcome, all who attend our Wednesday evening dinner to stay for Bible study and small groups. Pastor Kelly anticipates, occasionally, rotating another leader in to teach this, allowing him the opportunity to facilitate a small group, from time to time.

### Will groups like Christian Mom's Fellowship or TruthSeekers still be meeting on Wednesday evenings?

We will be offering groups/studies that provide growth opportunities for all adults in our church & community. Our CMF and TruthSeekers leaders will be leading small groups and these groups will be open to any ladies who desire to participate. The groups will not target one particular age group but will provide a multigenerational opportunity for discipleship and community. These respective groups (CMF & TruthSeekers) may desire to provide other opportunities for fellowship and community, beyond Wednesday evening.

### Who can lead a small group?

Our small groups are led by men and women of FBC Summerfield who have committed to membership and have been equipped to lead/facilitate a group. Our strategy requires many small groups leaders, and we are actively seeking those with interest in leading a group. If you are interested in possibly leading a small group, please contact our Pastor of Disciple-Making, Eric Simmons, at [esimmons@summerfieldfbc.com](mailto:esimmons@summerfieldfbc.com) or call him at 336-643-6383.

### What will we do on the "one-week break" between small groups?

We are intentionally building a one-week break between each small group rotation. On our first break, October 27, we will have a guest speaker, Chris Allen, coming to share his testimony. Chris has a powerful story of God's grace from drugs, alcohol, and prodigal living to new life and faith in Christ! This will be an evangelistic service, open to our church and community, and a wonderful time to invite your ONE and anyone you know who is lost without Christ.

Small Group Registration Opens  
Sunday, August 8, 2021.

Registration will be available at our information centers, as well as online at [www.summerfieldfbc.com](http://www.summerfieldfbc.com).



### An Overview of Wednesday Nights & Reimagining "Small Groups" @ FBC Summerfield from Pastor Kelly

I am excited to update you on our plans for Wednesday evenings, this fall, beginning Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. We are thrilled to announce the return of our Wednesday evening meals. This time together provides a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and community among our members and guests. Our kitchen team is excited, and ready, to return to their place of service and they are already preparing for a wonderful menu of dinners this fall and winter. Our meals will be served from 5 pm to 6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. As we get closer to September, we will share the menus and more details.

This year our theme at FBC has been, "Reimagine First Baptist Church." For several months we have been praying and reimagining how our Wednesday evening format can help enable us to fulfill our mission and vision as a church. At FBC Summerfield, our mission is to **"Make disciples who reach up to God, in to the church, and out to the world."** Our vision is that **"By God's grace we will be a multigenerational, gospel-centered, disciple-making church family reaching Summerfield and beyond for the cause of Christ."** Our mission and vision must be the guardrails of ministry to guide us in the right direction and provide the structure for all of our ministries.

On Wednesday, September 1 we will launch an intentional, adult, small group discipleship ministry here at FBCS. The structure of these groups will look different from years past. However, our mission for small groups is to enable all participants to “*reach up to God*” in discipleship, and “*in to the church*” in community. To that end, we will offer numerous small group options from which you may choose to participate. These groups will run on a 6 to 8-week cycle, depending on the calendar and other events. This means our first round of groups will launch on September 1 and conclude on October 20. We will take a one-week break (October 27) from meeting as groups (our dinner will continue) and host a large group service/gathering for everyone (see FAQs for more details on the special service on October 27). Then, we will resume with a second cycle of small groups meeting from November 3 through December 15. We will take a break for Christmas and resume this 6 to 8-week format in the new year.

We are working intentionally to offer a variety of small group options, on rotation, from which you will be able to participate. These groups play a key role in our “*disciple-making*” strategy and, prayerfully, will guide all participants in growing in their walk with Christ. These groups could include studies related to men’s discipleship, women’s discipleship, couples, parents, Bible book studies, worship, Financial Peace, marriage enrichment, apologetics, prayer, evangelism, Christian living, and more! These groups, and studies, will be “*gospel-centered*” in that they are rooted in the truths of Scripture, and lead to life-change, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our small groups will be open for any adult to participate. The only exception will be those groups that are gender-specific (women’s studies & men’s studies). Our prayer is for our adult small groups to be “*multigenerational*” in participants, as we believe there is great benefit in learning from each other, and much wisdom to be gleaned from younger and older generations learning and sharing together. Our youth and children will meet with their respective ministries on Wednesday evenings.

On Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, we will begin promoting our small group options and registration will open. You will be able to register for these groups at the information centers or online at [www.summerfieldfbc.com](http://www.summerfieldfbc.com). We also encourage you to use these groups as an opportunity to invite your ONE or any guests on Wednesday evening. Small Groups are a wonderful opportunity to connect new folks to Christ and to our church family.

Below you will find some FAQs which will help answer additional questions you might have. If there is something we have missed, and you have further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Pastor Eric (Pastor for Disciple-Making). We will be happy to discuss this with you.

– Pastor Kelly

## FAQs about Small Groups @ FBC Summerfield...

### **Why an 8-week rotation of groups?**

Providing an 8-week rotation of groups allows for more “on-ramps” to discipleship for our members and guests. Studies have shown that before COVID, the average church member attended worship twice a month. Thom Rainer notes, “One of the trends emerging from the pandemic is the ever-increasing number of once-a-month attendees” ([churchanswers.com](http://churchanswers.com)). We pray a shorter rotation of groups will allow more engagement from members and attendees. Additionally, people are making shorter commitments. It’s difficult for participants to commit to 12 or 16 weeks for a Bible study group. Participants are more likely to commit to a shorter study.

### **Why so many options for groups?**

Our church family is diverse in interests and needs, but so is our community. Providing a variety of small groups allows us to offer specific studies of interest for those inside of our church, but also outside of our church. These groups provide opportunities to invite our community inside our doors for studies that meet them where they are and provide biblical insights for daily living.

### **Can I join a group at any time?**

All groups will begin with a launch date, with the first groups beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>. Once groups have launched, we will encourage participants who join in later weeks to attend Pastor Kelly’s study (see below). Some groups may allow for a participant to join on weeks 2 or 3, while some groups/studies may not be so conducive (i.e., *Financial Peace*). This will be taken on a group-by-group basis, in consultation with the group leader.

### **How many participants can be in a small group?**

Ideally a small group would consist of 10-12 people. However, as we launch these groups, we will *not* be placing size restrictions on groups. Room sizes/space will vary and could influence the maximum number of participants in a group.